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## WINDSOR CASTLE AND PARK.

BY HENRY J. VERNON.



WINDSOR CASTLE, FROM "THE BROADS."

**O**F all the royal palaces of Europe, that of the Queen of England, at Windsor, is the most picturesque and the richest in historical associations. Nothing so noble, in any way, is to be found on the Continent.

Its situation is greatly in its favor. It stands on an isolated eminence of chalk, the only one within many miles, and is therefore a commanding object in the landscape, from whatever quarter it is seen. The low ridgy hill, the towers, battlements, and walls, and the great keep soaring over all, make it imposing beyond description. It is not, however, one single building, under a continuous roof, as many persons might suppose; but a collection of structures of different sizes, surrounding the great Round Tower, or keep.

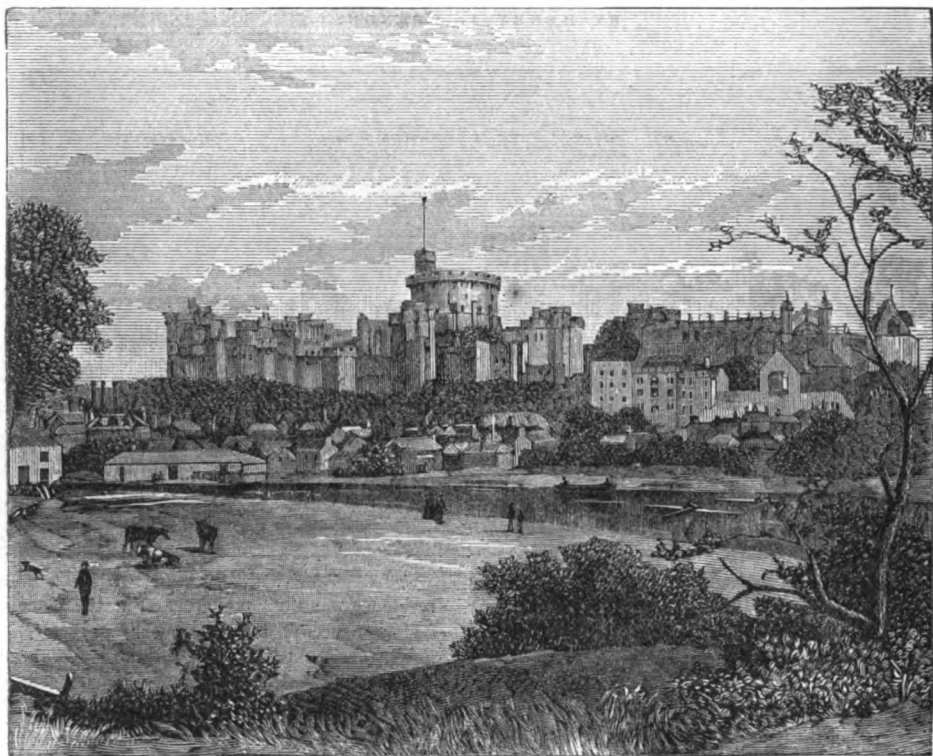
The first monarch who made Windsor a royal

residence was the Conqueror. But the place had been occupied by various kings before, for it overlooked one of the fords of the Thames, and was, therefore, of importance as a stronghold. From the time of William of Normandy, down to that of Queen Victoria, it has witnessed monarch after monarch "holding high festival" there. Henry the First was married at Windsor, A. D. 1122. John was residing there when he went to Runnymede, to sign Magna Charta. Edward the Third was born there. So also was Henry the Sixth. John, king of France, after Crecy, was long held a captive at Windsor. David, king of Scotland, taken at Neville's Cross, shared the same fate. James the First of Scotland was likewise a prisoner, for years, within its massive walls, and fell in love with the Lady Jane Beaufort, whom he afterwards made his queen, by seeing her walking in the castle-garden, which he overlooked from his lofty window.

The great Round Tower, or keep, which, as we have said, is the central figure, was the work of Edward the Third. It is built on a large artificial mound, which is probably as old as the Romans, and perhaps even as the Britons. Subsequent kings made various additions and alterations to the castle. St. George's Chapel was erected in the reign of Edward the Fourth. The most extensive improvements, however, were those effected under the direction of the architect Wyatt, in the time of George the Fourth, who rebuilt considerable portions, added thirty-

two feet to the height of the Round Tower, and left the castle substantially as we see it now.

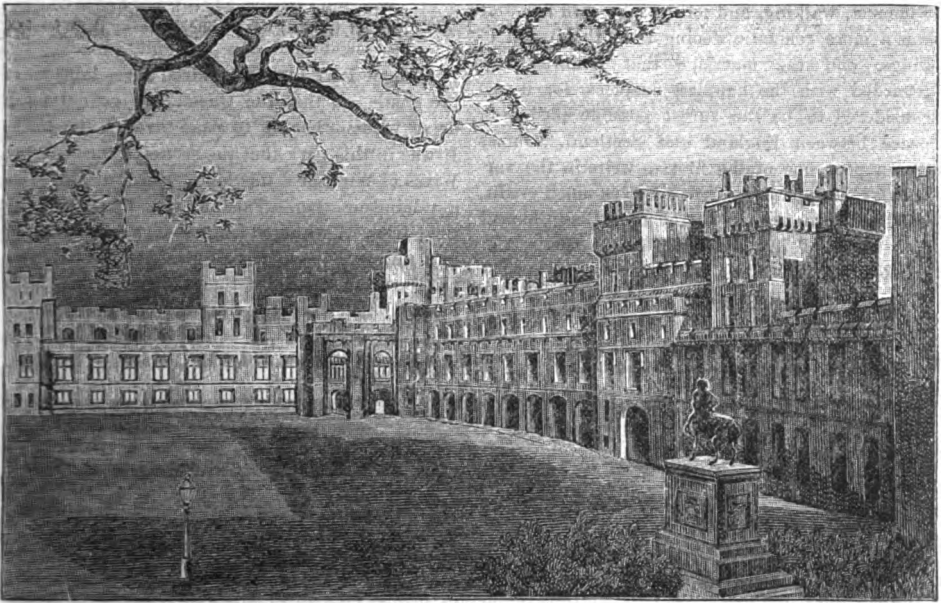
One of the most beautiful of the buildings is St. George's Chapel, which stands nearly opposite the principal gateway, as you come up from the town by what are called the Hundred Steps, but are really one hundred and twenty-two. It was built by Edward the Fourth, with the exception of the stone roof, which was added by Henry the Seventh, and is a very fine example of what is called the Perpendicular Gothic, a style peculiar to England alone. There is not a single square



WINDSOR CASTLE: SHOWING ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL, ETC.

foot of the interior that is not ornamented, the walls being covered with delicate medieval paneling, and "the ribs of the columns," as has been almost poetically said, "spreading over the roof in rich tracery, adorned with painted coats-of-arms of the Knights of the Garter, and with the 'rose-en-soleil,' the well-known cognizance of Edward the Fourth." The great west window excels even those usual in the Perpendicular style, where the west window is always the most superb feature, for it fills up the whole of that end of the nave, and is refulgent with stained glass, all of it ancient. In the choir are suspended the helmets, banners, and mantles of the

Knights of the Garter. We give an engraving of it on another page. The tombs of kings and queens crowd its pavement. Here, among the more fortunate of his race, sleeps Charles the First, where he was laid, according to a cotemporary account, just after his execution, "in silence and sorrow, his pall white with the snow which fell upon it." In 1818, in consequence of doubts having been expressed as to this interment, the coffin was opened, in the presence of Sir Henry Halford and other authorities, and the headless body of the ill-fated king found within. "The shape of the face was long and oval," says Sir Henry, "the hair was thick at the back of the head,



THE ROYAL APARTMENTS, UPPER WARD, WINDSOR CASTLE, BY MOONLIGHT.

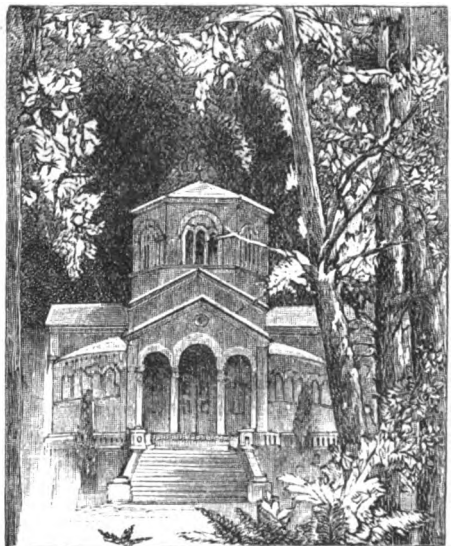
and nearly black: that of the beard was of a reddish-brown." The description recalls vividly the portrait by Vandyke.

The state apartments are modern, but in fair taste, considering all things; they are very spacious, and are filled with inestimable works of art, especially portraits by Vandyke. They are built in what is now considered the Bastard Gothic of the architect Wyatt: but the style, after all, is one eminently suited for domestic use, collegiate or palatial. The upper court-yard, or ward, as it is called at Windsor, is an example. We give an illustration of it. Besides the apartments set aside for every-day use, there are other chambers for state purposes, all of more or less splendor, the guard-chamber and the great drawing-room especially.

A terrace, twenty-five hundred feet long, surrounds the castle on three sides, and is admitted, even by foreigners, to be the finest in the world. Here Queen Elizabeth was accustomed to walk, for an hour every day, surrounded by her maids of honor, and followed by the gentlemen of her court in the gorgeous apparel of their day. Here Charles the First, and afterwards Charles the Second, took exercise in the same manner. Here Cromwell was often to be seen, gloomy and stern, noticing no one, oppressed with the cares of state. Here George the Third and his queen also walked, with their children, on Sunday afternoons, exhibiting themselves to crowds of reverential spectators, for the days were those of the high Toryism and

almost exaggerated loyalty which the reaction against the excesses of the French Revolution had brought about. On these occasions, the terrace was thrown open to the public, and on Sunday evenings a band of music played.

At its eastern end, the terrace overlooks a sunk garden. It was here that the royal lover, James of Scotland, saw the Lady Jane, niece of Cardinal Beaufort, and daughter of the Earl of



PRINCE ALBERT'S MAUSOLEUM.

Somerset, walking, and fell in love with her. It was a more romantic wooing than that usual to kings, and the marriage that followed was regarded with the happiest auspices, for it was considered to be the surest possible pledge of peace between England and Scotland. James was a poet, one of the first to write in the vernacular, and perhaps entitled to as much credit, on that account, north of the Tweed, as Chaucer was south of it. In his "King's Quair," or "Book," he describes this garden:

"Now there was made, fast by the tower's wall,  
A garden faire, and in the corners set  
• An arboure green, with wandes long and small  
Railed about; and so with leaves beset

Was all the place, and hawthorne hedges knet,  
That lyf (person) was no one, walking there forebye,  
That might within scarce any wight espye."

A Home Park of five hundred acres joins on to the castle, so that the Queen can go out for a drive without having to pass through the town. It was in this park that the scene of the "Merry Wives of Windsor" was laid. Here, disguised as a "Windsor stag," Falstaff was tormented by the fairies. A withered tempest-torn oak, enclosed in a railing, is popularly supposed to be "Herne's Oak," alluded to by Shakespeare; but it is believed that the real tree was cut down, by a mistaken order, A. D. 1796. Near by is Frogmore, once the residence of Princess Charlotte,



ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL: CHOIR.

and afterwards that of the Duchess of Kent, the mother of Victoria. In the grounds attached to this smaller palace is the mausoleum erected by the Queen to her deceased husband, the Prince Consort. It is a cruciform edifice, surmounted by an octagonal lantern, in the Romanesque style. We give an engraving of it.

Windsor Great Park, which is connected with the Home Park, contains eighteen hundred acres, and abounds in artificially-arranged walks and drives, as well as in more natural forest-scenery, where herds of deer, startled from the tall ferns, may be seen hurrying out of sight at the approach of strangers. Henry the Eighth went hawking

here, with Anne Boleyn, when she was queen of his heart as well as of his realm, in the joyous days, full of gayety and sport, when she little suspected that the headsman's axe loomed for her, but a few brief months ahead, on Tower green.

The most noticeable feature of the Great Park is what is called the Long Walk, a wide avenue, three miles long, shaded by grand old trees on either side, and running as straight as an arrow. It was begun by Charles the First, but not completed until the time of William of Orange. We give an illustration of it. Parallel to it runs the Queen's Walk, an avenue planted by Queen Anne,

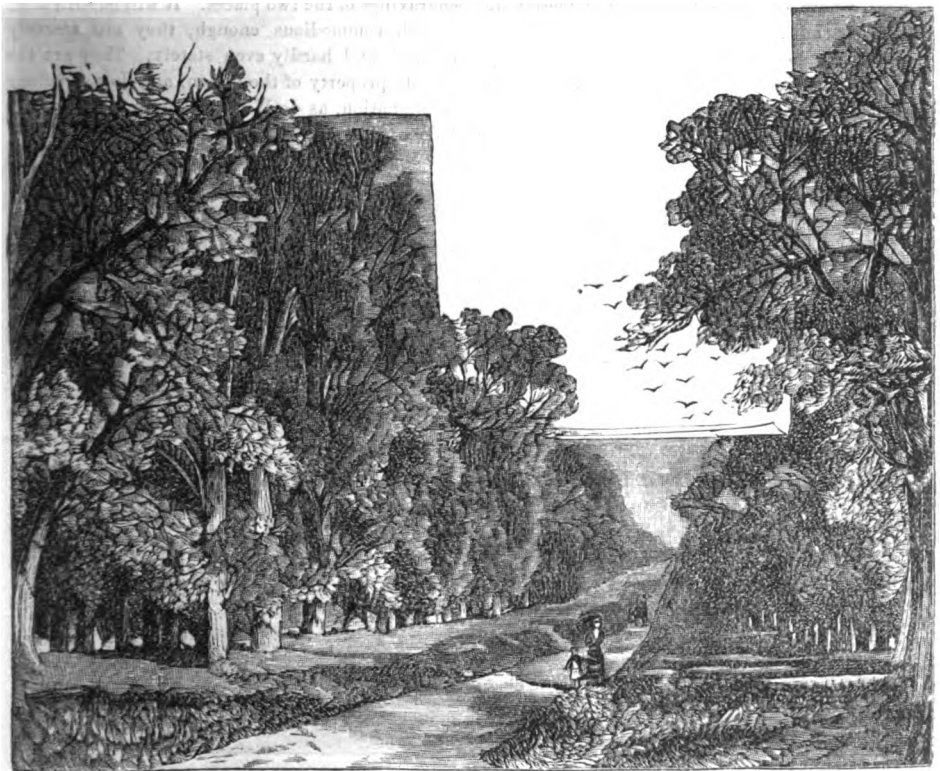


A. D. 1707. The Long Walk ends at Snow Hill, from which a pleasant drive leads to Virginia Water, an artificial lake, the largest in Great Britain, where George the Fourth used to keep a miniature frigate. Near it are some sham ruins of a supposed Roman temple, in the worst taste of the last century, when it was thought classical and refined to imitate antiquity in this "Brummagem" fashion.

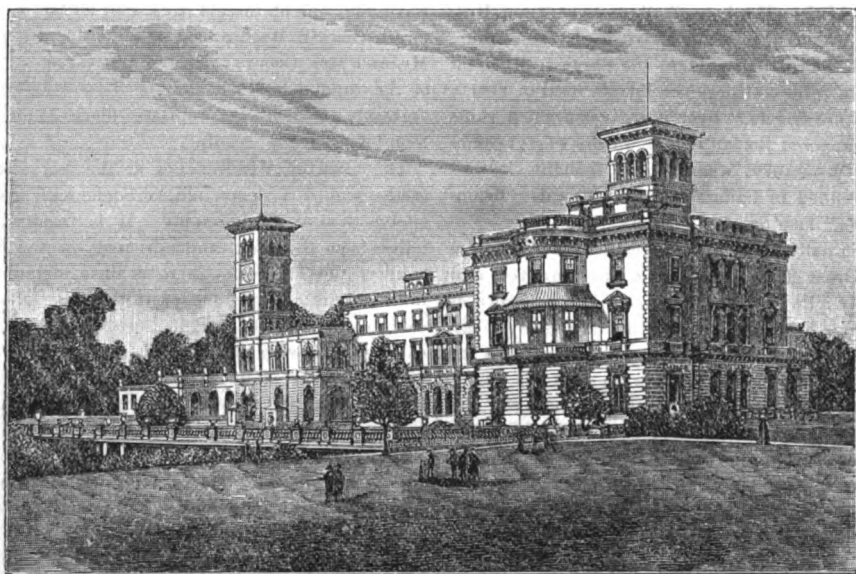
Originally a vast forest extended westward from the Great Park, measuring one hundred and twenty miles in circumference. It was known as Windsor Forest, and saw, in its day, many a gallant hawking-party, and many a chase of what the ballad of Robin Hood calls "the good red deer." It has long been almost entirely enclosed, and converted into plough and pasture land, greatly to the economic advantage of the realm, though to the loss of much that was picturesque and romantic. Here and there, however, many a wild bit of wood and common may still be seen, with patches of heath in the sandy soil, that fill the fancy with memories of the days of Froissart, when brave knights rode forth on their splendidly caparisoned steeds, accompanying fair ladies on milk-white palfreys and with falcon on wrist. It

was under one of the old oaks, still left from the forest, that Sir Walter Scott read to his friends, Mr. and Mrs. George Ellis, the first three cantos of the unpublished "Lay of the Last Minstrel." Certainly no more appropriate place could be found for such a reading.

The town of Windsor lies at the foot of the castle, and is a sleepy old borough, with about twelve thousand inhabitants. It is twenty-two miles from London, and situated on the left bank of the Thames. There is little of interest in the way of architecture left in the place, all the old buildings of the Middle Ages, with but few exceptions, having disappeared. As late as A. D. 1860, however, a house standing at the foot of the Hundred Steps, near the river, and believed, on good authority, to have been that which Shakespeare had in his mind as the house of Mrs. Page, in the "Merry Wives of Windsor," was taken down to make way for a more modern structure. In one of the bye-streets is a low public-house, called the "Duke's Head," where Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, once lived. Tradition says that Charles the Second used to come there from the castle, and walk thence, with the Duke, to Filberts, the residence of Nell Gwynne.

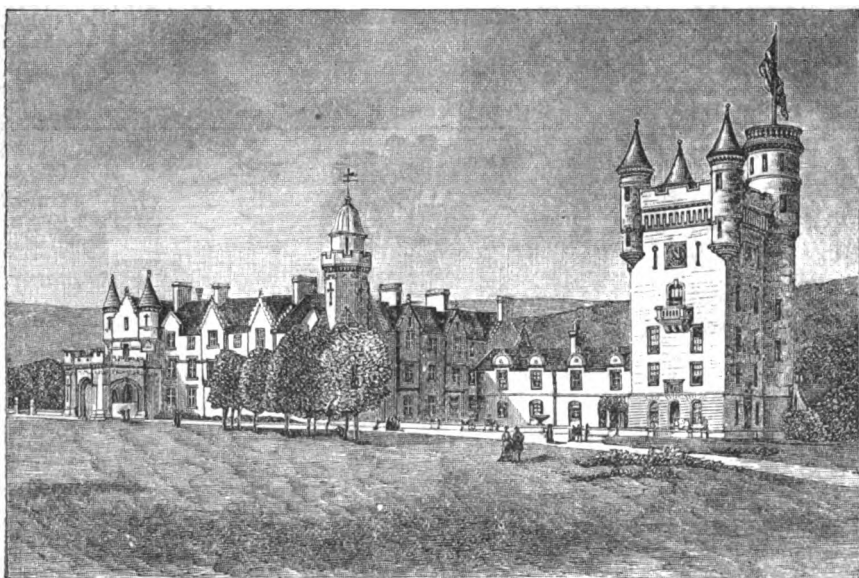


THE LONG WALK, WINDSOR PARK.



OSBORNE HOUSE, ISLE OF WIGHT.

Windsor Castle is used principally to keep "royal state." But the Queen's favorite residences, where she lives that quiet domestic life which has endeared her so to her own people, and has won for her the personal respect of everybody, whether in Europe or America, are Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, and Balmoral, in the Highlands of Scotland. She spends most of the winter months at the former, and the summer and early autumn ones at the latter. We give engravings of the two places. It will be seen that, though commodious enough, they are scarcely palatial, and hardly even stately. They are the private property of the Queen, and do not belong to the nation, as do Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace, Hampton Court, St. James Palace, etc.

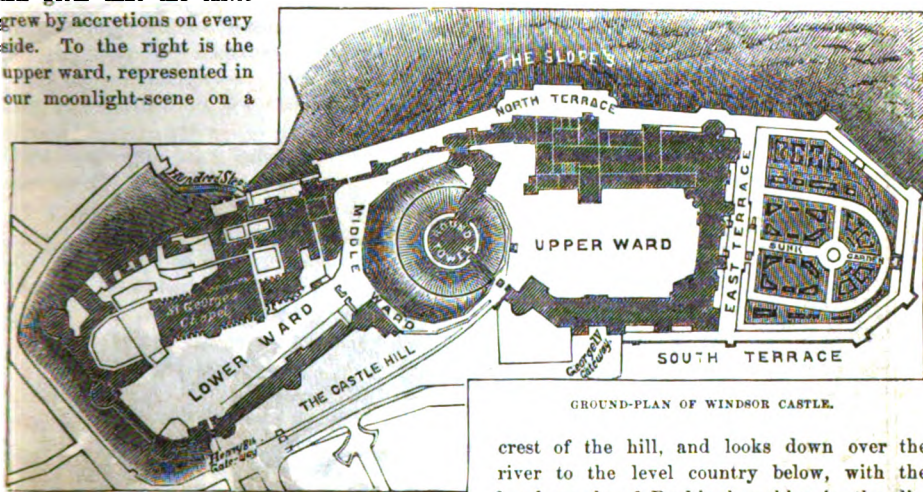


BALMORAL CASTLE, NEAR ABERDEEN.

We have said that Windsor Castle, instead of being a single building under one continuous roof, which is the popular idea of a castle, is, on the contrary, a collection of buildings more or less distinct in character, detached from each other, but enclosed within a common wall. This is best seen by the subjoined engraving, which shows the ground-plan of Windsor Castle, with its various edifices, court-yards—or, as they are called at Windsor, wards—terraces, etc., etc.

Conspicuous in the centre is the great mound on which stands the Round Tower. It was from this germ that the castle grew by accretions on every side. To the right is the upper ward, represented in our moonlight-scene on a

preceding page. Surrounding this spacious courtyard are the apartments for the Queen and those for visitors and for state purposes, prominent among them being St. George's Hall, on the north side—one of the stateliest rooms in Europe. To the right of this is what is called the East Terrace, from which you look down upon the sunk garden, where the fair Lady Jane was walking when King James of Scotland saw her from his prison-window, and fell in love with her. To the left of the Round Tower is the middle ward, and beyond that the lower ward, and on the northern



GROUND-PLAN OF WINDSOR CASTLE.

side of the latter St. George's Chapel, of whose interior we have given an engraving. Still further to the north, and beyond the chapel and other buildings, are the famous Hundred Steps that lead down to the town.

The dark parts of this plan represent buildings, the white ones open spaces or court-yards. Here, on the left, are two small wards of this kind, called the Dean's Cloister and the Canon's Cloister, both close to the chapel. The North Terrace, as its name implies, skirts the northern

crest of the hill, and looks down over the river to the level country below, with the beech-woods of Buckinghamshire in the distance, where Hampden lived and fought and fell. The South Terrace faces towards Hampshire, with the Duke of Wellington's residence far away on the horizon.

Of the two engravings of the castle, which we give on the preceding pages, the first represents it as seen from one side, the second as viewed from the other. The Round Tower and St. George's Chapel are seen, in both illustrations, rising conspicuously above the mass of the buildings.

## “SIR AMYAR TO SWEETHEART CICELY.”

BY ALICE MAUDE EWELL

SEEKING that envious tongues so oft assail  
Transcendent beauty, I do now declare  
I would not have thee shine more dazzling faire,  
Both for thy peace and mine. I choose thee pale.  
If thou wert red i' the cheeks, some would cry out:  
“Alack! she's painted.” Should thy locks display  
A marvelous length and thickness, sure they'd say:

“She struts in borrowed tresses, past a doubt.”  
Shame on the chattering jades! But, sweets, I fear  
Thy little feet will scarce unslandered goe,  
Being soe small. Methinks some gosips deare  
Will whisper of tight shoon. I prithe shewe  
These rumors false: goe barefoot once, my love,  
And all suspicioned pinchings thus disprove.